School Committee Meeting

Monday, February 12, 2018

6:15 p.m.

Upper Town Hall

Attendance: Mary Traphagen, Nancy Lancellotti, SusanMary Redinger, Jon Green, John Ruark, Maureen Babcock and Linda Dwight. Absent: Peter Rowe.

Mary Traphagen called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Nancy Lancellotti read the Vision Statement.

**Public Commentary** – None

**Student Update**

Chloe Cushing – Refresh day was really nice – everyone really enjoyed it. February break will be great. Chloe is excited to be going on a service trip to New Orleans during February break.

Scott Hoffman – reported that the Snowball dance was very successful with over 300 kids attending. There were no incidences, and the kids had a great time. Scott Hoffman thanked all of the people involved in making Refresh Day a great success for grades 9-12 and Wellness Day for grades 6-8. It is something that Scott Hoffman would like to continue next year. Upcoming spirit events will be held leading up to the Staff/Senior game.

**Trip Approvals**

Bryce Mattie attended the meeting to seek approval for a trip to France: “D-Day: Discover France” for travel June 2-11, 2019. The tour will be handled by EF Tours and will be available for up to 24 students in grades 9-12. The cost of the trip is $3,740 if booked prior to February 28, 2018. Fundraising will be available for students that meet the need and will also cover tips and chaperone costs. Seniors who attend the trip will miss graduation, but there could be a separate ceremony held for those students. Student who attend the trip will need to be in good standing with regard to academics and attendance.

***Nancy Lancellotti made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the D Day France international trip from June 2nd to 11th, 2019 as presented.***

***VOTE 4/1***

The Committee was asked to approve the change of departure time from 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27th for the Crew Team’s overnight/out of state field trip to the Saratoga Invitational to be held in Saratoga Springs, New York.

***SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the Crew team trip as presented.***

***VOTE 5/0***

**Challenge Day Funding Recommendation**

Guidance Counselor Christine Reale attended the meeting to explain the events and activities held during a Challenge Day. The Harvard Schools Trust has approved funding the Challenge Day team to come to Harvard, but there is still a need to fund the $3,500 cost for travel expenses. The Budget Subcommittee met with Dr. Dwight and suggested taking the funds from the Devens account. If this becomes a yearly event it will need to be built into the omnibus budget.

***Nancy Lancellotti made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to appropriate up to $3500 from the Devens revolving fund to cover the cost of the travel for Challenge Day.***

***VOTE 5/0***

**Cable TV Pilot Update and Future Consideration**

Bill Johnson and Anya Zulawnik from Harvard Cable Television attended the meeting and shared a summary of the FY18 School/HCTV Collaboration activities. As of February 2, 2018, the school funds allocated to subsidize Anya’s position have been expended. Unless additional funding is found, some activities will be curtailed. The School Committee will keep the HCTV informed of any grants or funding that may become available. Bill Johnson asked the Committee to consider partnering with HCTV by both stepping up funding each year by $2K. Bill Johnson will seek grants to fund Anya for the remainder of the year.

**Pre-School Program Update**

Mr. Myler, HES Principal, reported that all four of the existing preschool students have expressed that they were pleased with the move to full day. This will fill four of the eight available peer model slots. The deadline for applications is February 15th. In addition, Mr. Myler provided information regarding full day tuition costs for nearby communities which ranged from $6K in Ayer-Shirley to $10,100 at Nashoba Regional. The Harvard full day tuition for the 2018-2019 school year is set at $8,600.

**District Improvement Plan**

Dr. Dwight presented the 2017-2018 mid-year update to the Harvard Public Schools District Improvement Plan. The presentation identified the focus of each of the Core Values (Student Achievement, Personal Growth, Partnership, Resources and School Climate), the measure for year one, and progress toward completion.

**Superintendent/School Committee Goals Update**

Dr. Dwight and the Committee reviewed the status of the Joint School Committee Superintendent Goals as well as the Superintendent goals for the 2017-2018 school year.

Dr. Dwight led the conversation with regard to the Superintendent/School Committee Joint Goals of Student Achievement, HES Building Project and Communication Plan and reported that progress on these goals is ongoing.

Dr. Dwight led the conversation with regard to the Superintendent Goals of Strengthening the Leadership Team, Innovation, and Networking, and she reported progress on these goals is ongoing.

**Superintendent Update**

**Hildreth Elementary building project update**

List of actions completed in the past two weeks:

\*This has been an especially busy time for the SBC as deadlines and submissions must be met to ensure the ability to hold the vote at Town Meeting and on the ballot.

\*Several members on the SBC traveled to Boston on 1/25 to observe the work of the estimators as they reconciled the line item costs for the building.

\*The working group met on 1/29 to consider aspects of the project design to cut or change in order to reduce the project cost. This group made recommendations to the SBC at the 2/2 meeting. The working group met again on 2/7.

\*There were several public sessions to share the costs of the project. These were held on 2/5 and 2/10. Dr. Dwight hosted a meeting of some of the retired members of the community on 2/7.

\*Please see the draft of the DESE submission. This section focuses on the special education services in the district. Josh Myler and Marie Harrington helped with the writing of this required document.

**Inclusion Committee Work**

\*The Inclusion Committee met on 1/22 and created the student survey described in the District Improvement Plan. The survey was then vetted by the Teacher Leadership Team and edited. The survey will be ready for input after the February vacation.

**Cross District Collaboration Continues**

\*Leaders from area districts met on 1/24 to plan shared professional development opportunities.

**Science Lab Update**

Dr. Dwight reviewed the details of costs to date for the Bromfield Science labs. The expected final costs indicate that spending will come in at $391K, approximately $41K over the original budget. Original budget funding was set at $350K, with $175K from each of Capital and Devens Funds. The School Committee had voted to pledge up to an additional $100K from Devens funds as detailed information from vendor bids came in over budget revealing the complexity of the proposed work. The Committee thanked Peter Rowe for his work to get the project completed.

**Consider Cancelling the 2/26 Meeting**

The Committee agreed to cancel the 2/26 meeting due to the planned absence of the Superintendent and Chair. Mary Zadroga will notify the Town Clerk that the February 26th meeting is cancelled.

**Calendar Consideration and Approval**

***SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the 2018-2019 school calendar as presented.***

***VOTE 5/0***

**Agenda Items**

Policy approval

Generate SAC questions

Social Students Department presentation

Student Achievement Update

Communication Plan Update

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

***SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the minutes of the January 22nd meeting as amended.***

***VOTE 5/0***

**Liaison/Sub-committee Reports**

**Mary Traphagen** reported that she missed the last HES School Council meeting and will get up to speed for March. The Student Advisory met with School Committee and talked about student achievement, and how new clubs are advertised and bringing back the idea of a “Club Fair.” In addition, students did not feel that parking is as big of a problem during the winter months because not as many students drive. Bromfield students have not heard much about the HES building project. Mary Traphagen reported that the Budget Subcommittee met and discussed funding for the Challenge Day travel expenses, and the Policy Subcommittee met and got through a lot of Policy B work.

**Nancy Lancellotti** reported that the School Council Career and Balance Subcommittees will be presenting updates to the School Council tomorrow. The Balance Subcommittee has looked at College Prep versus AP courses and are determining how and why students decide which level to take. In addition, the Subcommittee looked at guidelines for homework, course descriptions and the AP program, and how each relates to student balance.

**Jon Green** – no update.

**John Ruark** reported that the RFP for the HEAC light project is being developed and on pace. The hallway lighting project is set for completion.

**John Ruark** reported that the Athletic Advisory is interested in investigating the pros and cons of having a turf field within the town boundaries.

**SusanMary Redinger** CPIC met and no changes were made to the school projects being funded. There was a request to change the order of the Cronin project so that the stage work will be done prior to replacing the curtain. The funding level will remain the same.

**Open to Interested Ciitzens’ and School Committee Commentary**

**Nancy Lancellotti** reported that her term will expire in the Spring, and after much thought, she will not commit to another term.

**SusanMary Redinger** attended the Wellness Day and thought it was great. SusanMary Redinger acknowledged with appreciationNancy Lancellotti's contribution to the Committee over the last three years.

**Mary Traphagen** read a note of thanks from Mr. Robbins and Ms. Ufema for the School Committee’s support in partially funding the band/music risers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

***SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.***

***VOTE 5/0***

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga